

## **Surgical Management of Cerebrovascular Disease**

R.E. Zierler, Ed. McGraw-Hill, 1995.

The book 'Surgical Management of Cerebrovascular Disease' edited by R Eugene Zierler is a comprehensive and detailed textbook on all aspects of cerebrovascular disease. In this respect, the title possibly under-represents the extent of the text.

It has 32 contributors, all well known authors on the subject and consists of 514 pages. It starts off with a historical perspective by D.E. Strandness Jr and continues with five sections: Anatomy and Pathophysiology Clinical Manifestations, Diagnostic Evaluation, Therapeutic Approaches and Randomized Clinical Trials and finally Surgical Management of Cerebrovascular Disease.

The section on Anatomy and Pathophysiology gives a detailed description of local anatomy and provides all the necessary information for understanding the complex situations encountered in managing CVD. The section on atherosclerosis and the mechanisms of cerebral ischemia is very comprehensive.

Section two deals with clinical manifestations of the disease, the epidemiology and natural history with particular emphasis on risk factors that can be modified, controlled or treated. Clinical and particularly laboratory evaluation of the patient with CVD are covered in great depth and detail in part three. The sections on transcranial Doppler, CT, MRI and Angiography are thorough.

The fourth section, on Therapeutic Approaches and Randomized Clinical Trials, gives up to date reports on the status of the various trials with detailed analysis of the pitfalls and the available data. Of particular interest are the sections on combined Carotid and Coronary Artery Disease and on Alternative Methods to Arteriography.

The fifth section starts appropriately with a brief overview on Anesthesia for Carotid Surgery and continues with a detailed analysis on the various technical aspects of carotid surgery, including restenosis reoperations and briefly, surgery of the aortic branches. The topic of Carotid Artery Injuries is very well covered and the section ends with Carotid Body

Tumors. No mention is made of angioplasty and stenting.

Overall the book is very informative, the presentations are clear and to the point, the bibliography is up to date and extensive. The drawings are mostly reproduced by permission but in the era of low budget publications this can be expected. This also reflects on the quality of the pictures and the separation of colour plates from the text. The book gives a detailed overview on most aspects of Cerebrovascular Disease Management. It would be very useful to both practicing vascular surgeons and doctors in training and as such it should be considered among the best available on the subject.

**C.D. Liapis**  
*Athens, Greece*

## **Sundt's Occlusive Cerebrovascular Disease**

F.B. Meyer, Ed. W.B. Saunders, 1994. 552 pages, price £115.

The name of Thoralf Sundt is instantly familiar and respected by everyone who has undertaken any form of cerebrovascular research. Before he died in 1992 he asked his colleague Frederic Meyer to undertake an update of his multi-author comprehensive textbook on occlusive cerebral vascular disease. The goal, according to the editor, was "to update the book without losing its brilliant simplicity". The result is a text divided into six sections with the greatest emphasis on the clinical, surgical and pathophysiological aspects of extracranial vascular disease. However, because of his specialist neurosurgical interest, there is also a substantial amount on intracranial vascular disease including intracranial bypass, middle cerebral artery embolectomy and a comprehensive critique (criticism) of the methodology and conclusions of the EC-IC bypass study.

There is no doubt that Sundt's personal influence, teaching and exceptional research experience rightly permeates every aspect of this book (including an advert for his own shunt manufacturer on page 205) and as always occurs after reading a text, I came away educationally enriched. However, despite having one of the